(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) and (b) The Government has already introduced the Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002, in the Lok Sabha on 21.11.2002, with a view to set up a Central Manpower Export Promotion Council and Indian Overseas Worker's Welfare Fund. The proposed Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund shall meet the contingencies, such as (a) making the payment to the Embassies or High Commissions for arranging return ticket for the workers who get stranded in the foreign countries, (b) meeting the cost of transportation of dead bodies of the workers,(c) granting financial assistance to such workers who become partially or permanently disabled, and (d) providing relief for such other causes as may be specified in the rules. But the assistance shall not be provided to illegal migrants.

Rag-Pickers' Rights

*156. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether High Court of Delhi has issued a notice to the Centre on the rag-pickers' rights in the Capital;

(b) what is the status of implementation of the various laws to curb child labour and improve plight of rag-pickers in the Capital; and

(c) the details of the children deployed in this illegal trade in the Capital?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) The High Court of Delhi has issued notices to the Ministry of Labour, Govt. of India alongwith the NCT of Delhi, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the New Delhi Municipal Council in connection with Civil Writ Petition No. 5982 of 2002 (Public Interest Litigation) filed by Social Jurist - a Lawyers Group *Vs* Union of India and others regarding the plight of children engaged in rag-picking work in Delhi.

The Government of India has included the process of Rag-picking in the Schedule to the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act 1986 which prohibits employment of children below the age of 14 in listed

hazardous employments. According to information received from the NCT of Delhi, while no statistics are maintained in respect of rag-pickers separately, inspections of hazardous and non-hazardous occupations are undertaken and prosecutions sanctioned under the provisions of the relevant act.

Government of India is implementing projects in Delhi for the children withdrawn from work through a Grants-in-aid scheme for welfare of working children. An integrated programme for street children is also under implementation. This particularly targets children without homes and family ties.

Extension of Indian Exclusive Economic Zone

*157. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new legal concept developed in 1994 provides for the redefinition of the outer continental margin area of coastal States that could extend beyond 200 nautical miles for some countries;

(b) whether Government have prepared data claiming extended continental margin beyond the present 200 nautical miles Exclusive Economic Zone upto 350 nautical miles; and

(c) if so, the details thereof including the data collected for submission to U.N. Commission on the limits of the Continental Shelf?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, 1982, which entered into force on 16 November 1994, provides for the extension of the outer continental margin area of coastal States beyond 200 nautical miles for some countries.

(b) No, Sir. Marine geophysical surveys are presently underway for collection of the required data.

(c) Does not arise.